Linking Manali by S.T.D. Service

1238. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Manali has been linked with other parts of the country by S.T.D. service;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be linked?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Reliable transmission media for STD from Manali to the trunk automatic exchange at New Delhi is not available.

(c) It is planned to provide STD to Manali in 93-94.

[English]

Production of Steel by Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

1239. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whehter the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has commenced production;

(b) if so, the installed capacity of the plant and actual production achieved;

(c) whether any financial assistance is required to make the Plant to sustain itself; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. All the Production units, except Bar Mill, under Stage-I were commissioned, in stages, during the year 1990-91.

(b) The installed capacities of Hot Metal, Crude Steel and finished products under Stage-I are respectively 1.7 million tonnes, 1.5 million tonnes and 0.6 million tonnes. The production during 1990-91 of Hot Metal, Crude Steel and finished products was 0.68 million tonnes, 0.112 million tonnes and 0.02 million tonnes respectively. The commissioned units are still in the process of stabilisation.

(c) and (d) The Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is still under construction and necessary funds are being arranged by Government for its completion.

American Flights over Indo-Bangladesh Border

1240. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGARAHI:

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any information about the flights of American Army personnel over Indo-Bangladesh border recently;

(b) if so, whether any protest has been lodged with U.S. and Government of Bangladesh in this regard;

(c) whether any U.S. Aircraft crashed in Tripura while on the above mission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.